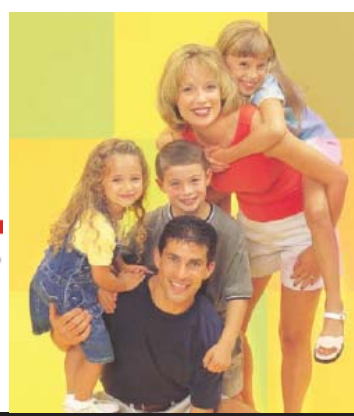


The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!

Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 1 No. 15

www.mylaurens.com

July 17, 2007

Local News

Mr. B's Bunch Attends Relay For Life



Frozen T-Shirt Team:
Randy Braunschweig,
Adam Braunschweig,
Jason Braunschweig,
and Terry Latham.



The luminaries were beautiful!
There were more than one "in
Memory" of Mr. B.

Many teachers, friends, and relatives attended the Relay For Life, in memory of Dan Braunschweig, who passed away in January from cancer. He was a very good, kind gentleman, and he has been missed very much. The event was held at Elbert Park in Pocahontas on June 29th. There were several fun events during the evening. A team from Mr. B's Bunch participated in a frozen t-shirt contest. They had to pull apart four T-Shirts that had been wet down and frozen together, then put them on (BRRR!). After a lot of pulling and sweating, our team won the event.

Mr. B's Bunch all made many laps around the park walking, talking and having a great time. The survivor's walk was a joy to see. Each member had paper chain links representing the number of years they had been a cancer survivor. Luminaries with "in memory of" or names of people who were fighting their cancer battles were placed and lit all around the edge of the road on which we all walked.

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

What a beautiful, memorable site to see as the sun set and darkness settled around us. We were all left in a state of awe-memories, reflections and hope in everyone's hearts.

Relay for Life team were: Peg Milton, Mike Kolander, Jo Braunschweig, Shane Braunschweig, Sue Wenell, Mary Kliegl, Carol Thoma, Pat Reese, Valerie Stuhrenberg, Marcia Kay, Traci Heuton, Susan Oehlertz, Christy Ehn, Lynn Lund, Jo Ann Behrens, Marilyn Ehlers, Katy Rolling, Leslie Franzmeier, Les Stewart, and Thaine Hopkins. The team raised \$2750 for Relay For Life, which made them the winning team in monetary donations. Way to go! A big "THANK YOU" to all who donated to this very worthy cause.

A Truly Special Birthday Gift

Dear Friends of Laurens,

The Quasiquicentennial, RAGBRAI, and Sister City plans have been made and the sprint is on to put those plans into action. This weekend will soon be one for the history books, but not before a lot of people work really hard to host one of the biggest four-day celebrations ever in Laurens history. Once again we will prove that we are "the busiest little town in Iowa."



Many families and friends are preparing to travel to northwest Iowa to enjoy the fruits of the year-long preparation and planning. The eleven delegates traveling from Laurens France should certainly receive the award for traveling the farthest to celebrate with us. They are so very excited to be celebrating our 125th anniversary with us.

To mark the celebration, the Mayor of Laurens France will be presenting a very generous gift to the city of Laurens, Iowa at the Thursday evening welcome dinner. This gift has been kept secret at their request until now. Each family with a Laurens address who visits the Laurens Sister City booth in the French market on Saturday will receive a bottle of wine produced in the wineries in Laurens France. This is their very generous birthday gift to us. There are several types to choose from and you can sample them along with the other Iowa wines in the market.

I hope that you will take an opportunity to visit with these fine people during their week-long stay with us. Whether it is during celebration activities or just on the street while they are walking around town, please stop and introduce yourself. They are all about meeting Iowans and seeing how we live. Please join me in extending the hand of friendship to them.

Sincerely,

Peter Hong
Mayor

Quasquicentennial Schedule of Events

Friday:

- 9:15 a.m. - Tractor Ride-leave from Fire Station. Entry forms-Mike Sangwin, 712-845-2465
- 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. - Iowa Welcome with meal at Sportsman's Park with Birthday Cupcakes
- 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. - Opening Ceremony, presentation of Little Miss Laurens, Kevin Lind's Band
- Dusk - Lighting of 125 red, white and blue candles on Sportsman's Pond, bring lawn chairs
- 10:15 p.m. - Fireworks over Sportsman's Park. Please remain south of Gazebo
- 9:00 p.m. to Midnight - Ski Band at downtown beer garden

Saturday:

- 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. - Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast at Fire Station
- 10:15 a.m. - Laurens Quasquicentennial Parade. Contact Lee Bailey at 712-845-4419
- 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Wine and Cheese Festival featuring Iowa Wineries. Contact Julie Wurr, 712-841-2546 or 712-841-4210
- After Parade - Food Vendors at North end of Third Street, Masonic Hall, Schoolhouse, Methodist Church
- After Parade-Antique and Collectible Car Show on Main Street. Contact Roger Siddall, 712-426-2149
- After Parade - Motorcycle Show. Contact Cindy Dubbert, 712-845-2038
- After Parade - Antique Tractor Show. Contact First Cooperative Association, 712-841-4566
- Noon to 6:00 p.m. - Inflatables sponsored by Laurens Chamber of Commerce
- After Parade - Gilbert Ranch Pony Rides in City Park
- After Parade - Hilmer's Kiddie Train Rides on West Main Street
- After Parade - All School Reunion. Contact Becky Braesch, 712-841-2679
- 1:15 to 7:00 p.m. - Rock Wall Climbing in City Park. Sponsored by U.S. Army
- 1:15 to 7:00 p.m. - Pocahontas County Historical Museum open to public
- 1:15 and 3:15 p.m. - Quilt Bed Turnings at Laurens Public Library
- 2:15 p.m. - Kids' Water Fight in front of the Fire Station
- 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. - Industrial Open Houses
- 4:15 p.m. - Historical Ghost House Tour. Contact Rick Woodley, 712-841-4960 or 712-845-4568 for a ticket
- 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. - "Tuxedo Junction" in the park. Bring lawn chairs
- 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. - "Trademarx" at downtown beer garden
- 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. - Picnic in the Park at the Fire Station. Sponsored by Kids' Korner and Swimming Pool Committee
- 7:00 p.m. - Farmall Promenaders, the famous square dancing Farmall tractors. Held near the Fire Station
- 8:00 p.m. - Drawing for John Deere Lawn Tractor, held near Fire Station
- 8:30 p.m. - Scenes and Songs at Methodist Church
- 8:15 to Midnight - Senders and FRB will perform at downtown street dance with beer garden

Sunday:

- 8:15 a.m. - Golf Tournament with shot gun start. Contact Mike Ehn, 712-841-2333
- 8:30 a.m. - Straight House Lawn Mower Ride. Contact Bill Chaffee at The Laurens Sun, 712-841-4541
- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Brunch at Laurens Golf and Country Club
- 11:15 a.m. - Ecumenical Church Service at Sportsman's Park, bring lawn chairs
- 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Lunch available at United Methodist Church
- 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. - Free Swim for kids at Laurens Pool
- 3:15 p.m. - Historical Fashion Tea at Bethany Lutheran Church. Contact Betty Van Horsen, 712-841-2163

For more details, e-mail quasqui@laurens-ia.com or visit the website at www.laurens-ia.com

Quasqui Buzz

This will be the last Buzz for the Laurens Quasquicentennial Celebration, 2007!

We have new things completed for sale at the Headquarters Building. The Laurens-Marathon School History is in and ready for graduates of the High School. The Self-Guided Tour of Historic Homes in Laurens is available in three forms: a CD, a cassette or a booklet. Rick Woodley just brought in a neat little booklet which lists the businesses through the years in Laurens. His family has prepared a video with music background to show the Business District. This will run on a TV at the Headquarters.

Ralph of Laurens, Bud Reining, is present most afternoons with stories about RAGBRAI experiences that he had when he drove the truck for night supplies for the bikers. He also has the coffee pot on for visitors. We have several chairs, not the greatest looking creatures, but they sit pretty well.

The Hersoms have brought in the Time Capsule from the Centennial. The contents are in very good shape. This will be on display. Be careful about handling the items as it is to be returned to the sign on Highway 10, west of town. We will prepare a similar Time Capsule for the Quasquicentennial after the celebration to place in the sign.

Just Me & a Word

I've been blessed to live in the Laurens Community and serve the people of Sacred Heart during the past four years. Gratitude is the memory of the heart and I will always appreciate the friendship and the generous spirit shared with me.

Words are fragile but my memories will always be lasting like the seasons of the year. The red Jeep knows its way to Laurens and no farewell is needed. May God bless you and may God Bless America.

Fr. Verne Stapenhorst

More Quasqui Buzz-

Some of the Laurens Quasquicentennial celebration depends upon the people of the community contributing to the funds. There are a number of raffle tickets for the John Deere lawn tractor to be purchased from the citizens of Laurens.

Tom Madsen, chairman of the finance committee is becoming a bit concerned. If you are holding tickets, please get out there and sell them, then turn in the stubs and the money to Bob Dallenbach as

soon as possible. Don't let them burn a hole in your pocket!!

The John Deere lawn tractor will appear in the parade on Saturday morning with the Steering Committee Chairman at the wheel. The drawing will be held after the Farmall Promenade performance near the Laurens Fire Station. You need not be present to win, but that ticket must be in the wheel of fortune!

Country Store Celebrates 30 Years in Laurens

Roger Hanish opened the doors of the Casey's General Store in Laurens on August 1, 1977. The business was located on property purchased from the Rock Island Railroad along Highway 10.

The Laurens community and surrounding communities have patronized the store from the first day the doors opened to the present day... 30 years of business.

Over the past 30 years, many changes have taken place. Many employees have helped to sustain and promote the store. We'd like to recognize and thank each of them by name, but that would be difficult. But, we'd like to say a hearty Thank You to all...you know who you are and we appreciate your efforts.

We've seen changes over the years: In 1977, gas sold for \$0.49-9/10. Today it sells for \$3.14-9/10. In 1987 we added a kitchen to offer a variety of different foods to our patrons.

Jean Swanson joined us as an employee in April, 1982. She was promoted to Manager in 1987 while we were still Casey's, and transitioned with us in 1994 when we became Laurens Country Store.

Present employees of the store are Jennifer Umbreit, Echo Arends, Pam Caldwell, Ashley Garret, Shelly Powell and Jeannie DeWall.

We hope you'll all come to help us celebrate our 30th anniversary. Spend some time with us and allow us to happily serve you as we always have. Register for the many prizes we'll be giving away to celebrate our anniversary.



Quasquicentennial Special

v3 Razr only \$1.25
PLUS
FREE Activation

Offer ends July 31, 2007.

Contact authorized agent Laurens Municipal Power & Communications at 712-841-4610 for details.



Industrial Open Houses

Four local industries will be holding open houses Saturday, July 21st from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. School buses will shuttle visitors from one site to another in a continuous loop.

Bobalee, Inc. manufactures hydraulic/pneumatic cylinders and components. Watch for their float in the morning parade.

Fisher Hydraulics manufactures hydraulic/pneumatic cylinders and components.

Register for door prizes at their open house. There will be games and prizes available for the kids while their parents tour and everyone is invited to enjoy ice cream treats.

Pengo is the largest manufacturer of augers and related wear parts in the world, serving the utility, construction, agriculture, foundation and major worldwide OEM markets. Pengo products are available through a network of over 500 dealers and OEM manufacturers.

Positech manufactures manipulators including transfer arms, lift cylinders and rotary manifolds. Refreshments will follow their tour.

Draft Horses at the Albert City Threshermen & Collectors Show

By Arlyn Youngberg

One of the features this year at the Albert City Threshermen & Collectors Show is the Draft Horse - farm work horses.

Of course, the whole purpose of the annual show is to bring back memories of years gone by for the older folks and to show, in many ways, how things used to be done in rural America years ago for the younger generations. There is something for all to see and learn at the show!

Since the large, "beautiful giants" are featured this year, a new event will be held. HorseTech of Laurens, and Ag Partners of Albert City are sponsoring a farm team obstacle course. This event will be held on Saturday evening, August 11th.

The purpose of this event is to show the skill of the driver as he/she relates to their horses in hitching and driving their team through (and over, and around) numerous obstacles. The last event will be the team pulling a "pulling sled". The team will have to really lean into it to get the sled moving.

Plans are to have six horses plow with a gang plow - something seldom seen these days. There will be a demonstration of how horses are trained for the

United States Military, such as parades, funerals of dignitaries, Arlington National Cemetery, or guarding and patrolling.

Also new this year will be some shoeing of horses! Not only are the visitors



pulled around the grounds in a trolley pulled by four horses, but you will see horses working near the huge steam engines powering the threshing machine, or supplying the power to operate a threshing machine. Also, there will be cultivating with horses, binding corn with horses, as well as discing and harrowing. A team will provide the power to unload wheat from a lumber wagon.

One horse/mule will be used to dig a well or power a burr mill to ready grain for flour.

Each year one can see folks taking pictures of the horse activities. Then they might say something like, "Now I have actually seen these things being done! I don't have to remember what Grandpa said about how it was back then."

If you are interested in seeing, in action, what part of your heritage is, you will enjoy time at the Albert City Threshermen & Collectors Show, August 10, 11 and 12.

Webkinz
At Ressler Drug!
Downtown Laurens 841-4374

Quasqui Happenings

The Quasquicentennial Committee has been hard at work for several months making sure the celebration has something for everyone to enjoy.

Check out the events for the following special interest groups.

If you like wheels and machinery, start with the tractor ride on Friday morning. Saturday is the antique and collectable car show, motorcycle show and antique tractor show. Saturday afternoon tour four Laurens industries, watch the Farmall Promenaders square dance that night and on Sunday ride your lawnmower in the Straight House Lawn Mower Ride. You can buy a chance to win a John Deere Lawn Tractor. The drawing will be Saturday night.

Music lovers can listen to the Kevin Lind Band at the gazebo on Friday night and the Ski Band will play at the Reservation that same night. Saturday, Trademarx, the Senders and FRB all play at the Reservation.

Tuxedo Junction will be at the city park and Scenes and Songs can be heard at the United Methodist Church.

Kids will enjoy catching candy at the Saturday morning parade, riding the Hilmer's Kiddie train, playing on the

inflatables all afternoon, riding ponies and rock wall climbing in the park, a water fight at the fire station and on Sunday can enjoy free swimming at the city park.

Since this is our Quasquicentennial, the history of Laurens can be enjoyed by touring the Pocahontas County Historical Museum, watching a quilt turning at the library, checking out the windows downtown which will have the history of each building listed, looking at displays of historical items in the downtown windows, going on the historical ghost tour, self-guided tour of historic homes, renewing acquaintances of class mates by attending the All School reunion and attending an historical fashion tea at the Bethany Lutheran church.

Sunday there will be a shot gun start golf tournament for the athletes in town.

All these events will take a lot of energy. Fuel up Friday at Sportman's Park with a meal (including a birthday cupcake) served by the KC's and Rosary Society. Saturday attend the Wine and Cheese Festival. Kiwanis will have a pancake breakfast in the morning. Several groups will be serving food

after the parade. Kid's Korner and the Swimming Pool Committee will serve a picnic in the park Saturday evening. Sunday the Golf and Country Club will serve a brunch and the Methodist Women take on the cooking duties for a lunch from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Other special events will include the presentation of Little Miss Laurens and fireworks at Sportman's Park on Friday. Saturday morning will start off with the Quasquicentennial parade. Representatives from our sister city, Laurens, France will be here to help us celebrate, so let's give them a big welcome from the Busiest Little Town in Iowa.

Helping Hand

Submitted by Mary Dean

For all the people out there who say the kids today don't care about anything, I have always thought that was pretty harsh.

Today was one of the reasons I don't agree with that. At the library we had a freight truck stop to unload 50 cases, or more, of candy worms. As I was coming out to get some more, I noticed a motorcycle (which I always do. I should have been a guy when it comes to bikes and cars.) The bike was at the stop light. The driver looked over at us and turned our way. He rode up and said, "Do you need some help"? I said "yes, thanks." He parked the bike and just pitched in to help. It was one of the Sones boys. Since I can not tell them apart, I can not tell you which one. But I wanted to thank him. It was a very nice thing to do. He left before I got a chance to say Thank you. I am sure he reads this as most of the kids do. So Thank You!

Also, thanks to Tory Mohr, who was asked to help on the spur of the moment and he pitched right in. He was also gone before I got to say thank you.



Another Lucky WINNER!

Kathy Simacek of Laurens is the 3rd Lucky Winner at Iowa Trust & Savings Bank of Laurens. Everyone is welcome to enter their name in the drawing held each Friday until the Quasqui Celebration. Our last drawing for \$125.00 will be held on July 20th so hurry in! Iowa Trust & Savings Bank is happy to be in Laurens to help celebrate.

Pictured is Cathy Pohlman presenting Kathy Simacek with \$125.00 in CASH!

At the Library

with Glenda Mulder July 17, 2007

We're getting geared up for all the excitement in Laurens. Look for some library BookWorms in the QuasQuiCentennial parade. Join us at the library Saturday afternoon at 1:15 & 3:15 for Quilt Show/Bed Turnings. Then on Monday we will be selling BookWorms (Gummi Worms) during the RAGBRAI "Lei Over." We're hoping to make enough money to redecorate our bathrooms and maybe even the workroom. As much as I loved the 70's, I have to say those designers must have been crazy. These areas are in desperate need of a makeover.

We got in some good fiction books, in case you're in need of escapism. Included are *Dead Connection* by Alafair Burke, *Tin Roof Blowdown* by James Lee Burke, *New England White* by Stephen White, *Someone to Love* by Jude Deveraux, *Up Close and Dangerous* by Linda Howard, *Slummy Mummy* by Fiona Neill, *Reduced Circumstances* by Vincent O'Neil, *Day of the Dandelion* by Peter Pringle, *1st Degree* by David Rosenfelt, and *Sheer Abandon* by Penny Vincenzi.

In nonfiction we received *A Buffalo in the House: The True Story About a Man, an Animal, and the American West* by R.D. Rosen. Fred and Sandi Neary donated *Do It Yourself Home Improvement* in memory of Mark Hansen.

If you've seen any pirates wandering around Laurens, they probably came from our last story time. We made pirate hats & treasure chests. We practiced talking like a pirate, which was great fun. It was hilarious to see these sweet kids wearing a pirate hat & growling "Aargh!" Kids, remember you have until the end of July to finish those reading incentives.

I got a call from the Rialto Theater in Pocahontas. They will again be giving a free ticket to all the kids in Pocahontas County that finish their library's Summer Reading Program. And only the kids that have finished their reading challenge will be invited to our Awards Party!

Check it out at the Laurens Public Library!



Quasquicentennial Community Worship

Sunday, July 22, 2007 - 11:15 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to gather in Sportsman's Park for a Community Ecumenical Worship. Bring your own chair - and join in prayer, praise, song and celebration. Each church in our community has been invited to share a short message, and the Quasquicentennial choir will sing. An offering will be received to cover costs of the service and support the Laurens-Marathon Ministerial Assoc. Help Fund. If you have any questions or ideas please contact Rev. Sara Galindo (841-2455).

Church News

This Week at the First Christian Church First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

- Wednesday, July 18 - 1:00 p.m. Willing Workers
- Sunday, July 22 - 11:15 Community Ecumenical Service in Sportsman's Park
- Monday, July 23 - Serving Root Beer Floats to RAGBRAI riders

The Olden Days in Downtown Laurens
8 unique pictures of Laurens in the early 1900's
Notecard sets and singles available at Heart-n-Home



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Quasqui Buzz

A self-guided tour of Historic Homes in Laurens will be offered during the Quasquicentennial Celebration. The Laurens

Historical Preservation Commission has done this tour as part of the celebration.

The tour is in three forms-audio cassette, CD and booklet. One of these may be picked up at the Quasquicentennial Headquarters. The tour begins and ends at the Pocahontas County Historical Museum and includes the Straight House on Section Line Road.

There will be signs posted in front of many of the homes on the tour indicating that the home is on the Laurens Registry of Historic Places. The tour is limited to the streets available during the celebration.

Unfortunately, some of the significant homes are not on the tour.

"Good News Club" Coming to Laurens

The Good Samaritan Center is hosting a "Good News Club" on July 16-20, from 2-3 pm. This condensed version of a Vacation Bible School program will be offered to children Kindergarten thru 6th grade at the Good Samaritan Center so the residents can join in the fun. There is no need to pre-register, just join us in the activity room each day at 2 pm. It is new to this area, but Good News Clubs have been happening in Iowa for many years. This program comes at no cost and will be a blessing to area children and Good Samaritan residents.

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

Kids Korner & Positech Team up in "LOOSE CHANGE CHALLENGE" For Fragile X

Kids Korner does an annual "Loose Change Challenge" where the children are asked to collect loose change from their family and friends. The money is then donated to a needy cause. This year the money raised was donated to "The Fragile X Research Foundation (FRAXA)". FRAXA has been helping individuals with Fragile X, their families, and professionals who work with them, since 1994. Fragile X syndrome is the most common inherited cause of mental impairment. The syndrome occurs in approximately 1 in 3600 males and 1 in 4000 to 6000 females. The majority of males with Fragile X have a significant intellectual disability. The spectrum ranges from learning disabilities to severe mental retardation and autism.

Doris Buffet (The Sunshine Lady) has donated \$500,000 to the FRAXA with a promise to donate \$500,000 more

if they are able to raise \$500,000 in personal donations. Gus Slama has attended Kids Korner since he was born, and was recently diagnosed with the Fragile X Syndrome. Through his loving and committed parents, he has been undergoing intensive therapy, and everyone has been working towards giving him the best chances that are available to him. One of the ways to better

help him communicate is to use sign language. It is thrilling to see that he is not the only one learning to sign, but all of the kids are picking it up!! I feel that Kids Korner is more than just a daycare center; I feel that we are a family. Gus' mother works for Positech, and that gave me the wonderful idea to ask Positech to join our efforts in raising money. They were more than happy to join our team, and we got started right away!! Together we were able to raise over \$450. The kids took the money up to Iowa Trust Bank and watched all of the coins get counted. They were amazed at how fast it worked, but most of them wanted to know why we took up ALL that change and only got a few pieces of paper money back!!! It is amazing that our loose change can CHANGE the lives of so many people!! I would like to personally thank everyone involved in making this a success, it is efforts like this that make you know that Laurens is a great town to be a part of! I urge anyone who wants to make a difference in someone's life to go to FRAXA.org and make a tax deductible donation. They appreciate any donation, big or small, and you could be part of helping find a cure for Fragile X.



Homeward Bound...A Journey of Memories

Thomas Wolfe wrote "you can't go home again." But come the weekend of July 21st, several thousand of us can put a little dent in the credibility of that statement. Although only less than a third of my 60 years were spent in Laurens, it will always, always, be my "home".

Whenever I think back on that time, which is often, a flood of memories (in no particular order) come rushing into my mind like a mountain stream in the spring. Little league baseball, the Dairy Bar, marble tournaments, Trenary's Café, the skating rink, seven full service gas stations, Lucky's Drive-In, Rainbow dances at the Masonic Temple, Joe Hermsen, the 1962 & 1963 state basketball teams, Bud Vanderpool, cruising main (actually 3rd Street), George's Rexall Drug, Christmas contests, the victory bell, Chris Plain, BBB, my great friend Dwight Alborn, lifelong friends & classmates, the Elite Theater, Dead Man's Gulch, walking beans, county basketball tournaments, Jr.-Sr. Proms, Harvey Burnham, "the hill", Lon Bruggeman, cub scouts, basketball at the parish center, M&JR Hakes, three

grocery stores, shop class, city leagues, paper routes, how far it seemed from one end of town to the other, Hunk McKiernan, three doctors in town, the Lions Club show, Schubert's Clothing, two water towers, neighborhood baseball games, running "the steps", Hobby Days, giant Christmas trees at 3rd & Main, great teachers, and so many more that all of us "Laurentians" share.

It is truly amazing how much of an impact only 18+ years has had on my life, and I am forever grateful for it.

July 21st, 2007. Let's all go home again.

Denny Galloway
LHS-Class of '65

Order Your Quasqui DVD at Headquarters Now

A professional quality DVD portraying highlights of our Quasquicentennial weekend events is now available for order at Headquarters. The goal is to have the DVDs distributed in August. DVD sales are payable in advance and priced at \$10 if picked up locally or \$12 postpaid. Mailing addresses must be provided when ordering. Stop at Headquarters and order your Quasquicentennial DVDs now.

Got Wine?
We have your accessories!
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Mallard, 602 Inman, 712-425-3436
Member FDIC

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Abbas

Courtini McLaughlin and Robert Abbas were united in marriage on Saturday, July 7, 2007 at Marathon's Poland Park. Pastor Dave Schumann officiated the ceremony. Parents are Bob & Pat McLaughlin of Laurens and Jerry & Starr Abbas of Marathon. Rob and Courtini released butterflies after their ceremony and visited with family and friends throught out the evening. Congratulations, Rob and Courtini!!!



Come and Go Bridal Shower

Honoring Jolene Sobotka, August 4, 9:30-11:30. Sacred Heart Parish Center in Laurens. Bring your favorite recipe.

Avenue of Flags

The VFW and Legion request your help in putting up the Avenue of Flags on Thursday, July 19, at 6:30 PM and again on Monday, July 23, at 6:30 PM to take them down. Your assistance is GREATLY appreciated.



Rumors Have It!

"Rumors" have it; this couple will be married five years. Nancy Gates and Ken Kunickis were united in marriage in Las Vegas, Nevada on July 19, 2002. Stop by Rumors Pub and wish them a happy anniversary, or send a card to: Nancy and Ken Kunickis, 511 Nelson Street in Laurens, Iowa. We love you! Mom and Dad Burnham, Ashley, Calil, Katie, and John.

1992 Class Reunion

The class of 1992 will be meeting Saturday, July 21, 2007, at 6:30 pm until ? in Amy Saunder's backyard (in alley behind Laurens State Bank). Please bring your own beverages and join us for some reminiscing and catching up. Hope to see you there!

Quasquicentennial Commemoratives Available Online

Quasquicentennial commemoratives can be purchased by visiting heartnhomeonline.com or laurens-ia.com. Both websites are easy to navigate. You can view photos of the commemoratives and complete instructions for ordering. Happy shopping!

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

Reminder -- Roewe Open House (err -- Farm)

A reminder that the community, friends, family and the "Farmers Club" original members and offspring are invited to:

125th Roewe Family Farm Open House, Dale Roewe Farm, 2-1/2 mi East on Hwy 10 - 2-4 pm, Sunday, July 22. Cake and refreshments.

Happy Birthday

Happy 2nd Birthday to Jansessa Jean Nielsen on July 18th! Parents are Ross and Tonya Nielsen of rural Rembrandt. Grandparents are Rich and Dee Jackson of Laurens and Pastor Lyle and Marlene Nielsen of Moose Lake, Minnesota.



Laurens France Delegates Final 4



French Delegates: Helène and René Bouisson Address: 6 Impasse des Fleurs, 34480 Laurens Occupations: She was the Administrative Assistant in the town hall. She retired this past April. He is a grape-grower and member of the Laurens Wine Cooperative. Hobbies, & Interests: Cooking, traveling, walking and other sports. Volunteer activities: Various volunteer activities. Children: They have one grown daughter. They have not visited the US. Home Stay Hosts: Jan and Ron Hersom



French Delegate: Mr. Jean-Luc Bonnin Address: 7, rue Porte Olivier, Beziers France Email: agence.jlb@wanadoo.fr Occupation: Consultant for wines from the South of France, especially the wines of Faugères. Hobbies & Interests: Films/cinema, the "outdoors" in general, visiting farms and animals. Volunteer activities: Various volunteer activities. He has visited the U.S. (Washington, New York) a number of times. Really knows his wines. Home Stay Hosts: Les and Peg Milton



French Delegate: Mrs. Jacqueline Copin Address: 4, Allés du Tilleul, 34480 Laurens Hobbies, interests: Films, reading, hiking and animals. Volunteer activities: Various volunteer activities. Children: She has a son (a professor in Paris) and three Grandchildren. Jacqueline moved to Laurens from Paris with her late husband (a producer of television commercials). After his death, she elected to stay in Laurens where she converted the old railway station (no more trains) into a charming home. A pleasant & well informed Lady. She has not visited the US. Home Stay Hosts: Jim and Kelly Van Sickle

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Wiegert Prairie - A Living Fossil

Wiegert Prairie - A Living Fossil By Clay Steele, Pocahontas County Naturalist



Did you know a trip to a farm could take you back 8,000 years? Well, thanks to Harry Wiegert and his ancestors, you can. Prairie once covered most of Iowa and surrounding states from Canada to Texas and from Indiana to the Rockies. However, the rich black soil that was created by the prairie was ideal for agriculture and when John Deere invented the steel plow in the 1800's, it was quickly converted to farmland.

One of those areas was the Wiegert farmstead, in operation from the 1860s until Harry Wiegert's death in 1980. Although the 1905 Pocahontas County history book states that this farm had been fully "improved," meaning converted to agricultural use from its natural state, a large area of it had remained uncultivated and ungrazed. This plot of land was being utilized, though - once a year it was mowed for its hay - and thus it too was considered "improved."

It was probably a coincidence, but the native prairie grasses and flowers that made up this patch of hay ground were not harmed by the once-a-year mowing and continued to thrive. As surrounding areas were cultivated under, this remnant prairie held on to become one of the rarest places in Iowa. Wiegert Prairie is a black soil prairie, named for the ground it grows on - a dark nutrient-filled loam several feet thick. Only four of these black soil prairies now exist in all of Iowa. One is Wiegert's, the other is the state owned Kalsow Prairie a mile and a half south.

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

These areas are treasures; living history books. They tell the tale of Iowa going back to the glaciers. After the mile-thick ice that covered this area melted, the land became covered with pine and then deciduous forest. As the climate grew hotter and drier, it became easier for natural fires from lightening to burn across the landscape. Most trees cannot survive fire. Only the bur oak with its thick bark and the deep-rooted plants of the prairie could thrive in this new environment. Prairie plants have roots that can reach 30 feet below the ground. With most of their growth underground, they are very drought and fire tolerant. In fact, they require fire.

Fire replaces nutrients and clears out old growth. It also eliminates

woody plants that are continuously encroaching on the prairie. Without fire a prairie becomes a brushy field and eventually a forest. In Iowa many prairies that were not plowed under became overgrown quickly. With natural fire eliminated from the landscape, prairies now have to rely on occasional mowing and controlled burns. Both of these methods have kept Wiegert Prairie in its natural virgin state for the last 145 years.

Come see this living artifact Sunday, August 5 from 9am till 4pm at the Wiegert Prairie Fallfest. The Pocahontas County naturalist will lead tours onto the prairie from the back of a horse-drawn wagon. There are dozens of flowers blooming this time of year, from purple coneflower to yellow compass plant, all interspersed with beautiful native grasses such as big bluestem. One can nearly see the Iowa that was from Wiegert Prairie, gazing across the acres, looking back centuries. This is Iowa as it was, never plowed, untouched, a true gem - the mother of the best soil in the world. This place is why we are here.

Wiegert Prairie Farmstead is located in Pocahontas County just north of Hwy 7 off 280th Ave. For more information contact the Pocahontas County Conservation Board at 712-335-4395 or at pokycbnat@evertek.net

Iowa Trust
& Savings Bank

The Laurens office of Iowa Trust & Savings Bank will not be open for business Saturday, July 21, 2007 in celebration of the Laurens Quasquicentennial. Everyone is welcome to register for the final \$125.00 Friday CASH Drawing to be drawn at 10:00 on Friday, July 20th. We hope everyone has a great, safe celebration!!

No-No Rocks the Rebels 4-0!

No Hitter Blanks Ranked 2A Foe



Seniors, Bryn Johnson (pitching) and Brynn Larson (catching) warm up between innings. Larson called, and Johnson pitched, a no-hitter at SC Thursday night. Photo: Anita Johnson

bringing Megan Cleveland to the plate with two down. Cleveland rapped her third single of the night, plating the fourth, and final, run for the Chargers. Cleveland and Kacie Woodley each recorded three hits on the night as the entire Charger line-up continues to be productive. This may be the most productive offensive team that the Chargers have put on the field in recent years.

Johnson and company took the field in the bottom of the inning with a four run cushion as the Chargers faced the top of the Rebel batting order. Looking strong at game's end, Johnson & Larson zeroed in on the ever shifting strike zone and struck out the side with Larson squeezing a third strike tip to end the contest!

One impressive game stat is the fact that not a single Charger batter struck out despite facing a tough pitcher in Brooke Scharn-a 24 game winner with over 200 strike outs on the season! Up and down the line up the Chargers are putting the ball in play!

The Chargers improve to 26-3 on the season, stretching their winning streak to 11 games.

Our Town Our Paper!

Peterson 7/12/07: The 3rd ranked Laurens-Marathon Charger women avenged their season-opening loss to the 12th ranked (2A) Sioux Central Rebels with a 4-0 win in Peterson Thursday.

Charger pitcher, Bryn Johnson threw a no hitter striking, out 11 Rebel hitters with no walks. Just one SC batter reached base on an error.

The game was scoreless through the sixth inning, but the Chargers batted around in the seventh scoring 4 runs before the Rebels could squelch the rally. Pinch hitter, Jordan Sundblad started the inning off with a single up the middle and Kacie Woodley added a double that smacked the bag at third, rolling down the line into left. Kelsey Meyer then slapped a shot at the Rebel short-stop who looked Sundblad back to third, allowing Meyer to reach first without a throw. This loaded the bases for Johnson, who drove in a pair of runs with a single up the middle. Brynn Larson followed with a base on balls, followed by Laci Hall who popped to short,



Kelsey Meyer Beats the Throw & Scores for L-M Saturday Night.

Chargers Hammer WB-Mallard 13-1 in District Opener

Johnson Goes Yard... Twice

Laurens 7/14/07: The 2nd ranked Laurens-Marathon Charger women improved to 27-3 with a convincing 13-1 victory over West Bend-Mallard in the opening round of 1A District play in Laurens Saturday night. Charger lead off hitter, Holly Hofmaster set the tone for the evening smacking a double in the top of the first. Kelsey Meyer then reached on a Wolverine miscue and Bryn Johnson brought 'em home with three-run shot that cleared the fence in dead center.

Johnson led the Chargers offensively with a pair of homers (5) and a double, driving in a total of six runs on the night .

Holly Hofmaster, Kelsey Meyer, Megan Cleveland, Brynn Larson, Jordan Sundblad and Kacie Woodley each drove in a run for the Chargers, who have been very productive up and down the line-up this season. Lampe, Cleveland and Meyer each had two hits with Hofmaster and Larson each swatting a double.

Johnson was solid in the circle allowing a lone 7th inning run after handcuffing the Wolverines effectively through six. The Charger hurler struck out 10 with no walks and allowed one earned run.

The Chargers will continue with District play in Laurens on Monday facing, North Sentral Kossuth (North Kossuth and Sentral-Fenton have consolidated).



Emily Lampe drives a shot to right field vs Sioux Central Thursday night. Lampe has improved her batting average by over 100 points this season! Photo: Anita Johnson



Experience Pays... Senior Laci Hall slides around the backside and reaches back to the bag deftly avoiding the Wolverine's swiping tag. Safe at Second!
Photo: Virginia Smart



Yahtzeeee!



Bryn with Rod & Birthday Girl Anita Number 4 & 5!

Chargers Tame Wildcats 5-1

Hofmaster Ignites Rally

Laurens 7/10/07: The Laurens-Marathon Charger Women improved to 24-3, cruising past the Humboldt Wildcats 5-1 in Laurens Tuesday night.

Trailing 1-0 in the 5th, freshman outfielder Holly Hofmaster ignited the Chargers with a two-run triple. Bryn Johnson's single drove in another run, giving the Chargers a 3-1 lead. The Chargers tacked on two insurance runs in the 6th on Laci Hall's RBI triple and a sac fly from Megan Cleveland. That was all that Charger pitcher, Bryn Johnson, needed to nail down the win.

Johnson had another strong outing for the Chargers striking out 13 Wildcats with no walks to notch her 24th win of the season. Anna Stover took the loss for the Wildcats, allowing 7 hits with 7 Ks and one walk.

Chargers Give N-F a 12-2 Spanking in Six

Mustangs Drop Out of 1A Rankings

Laurens 7/11/07: The 3rd ranked Laurens-Marathon Charger women improved to 25-3 with a convincing 12-2 victory over then 15th ranked rival Newell-Fonda. The Mustangs were sent home early when the mercy rule kicked in after the sixth frame.

The Chargers gave up a run in the first inning and then started up their offense scoring at least one run in each of the six innings. Kylie Woodley stroked a triple while Laci Hall and Megan Cleveland each added a double for the Chargers. Bryn Johnson, Emily Lampe, Kelsey Meyer and Cleveland were each credited with an RBI.

L-M pitcher, Bryn Johnson kept the Mustangs in check scattering five hits while striking out 7 to collect her 25th win of the season. The Chargers were flawless in the field.

This game marked the last regular season home game for L-M seniors Laci Hall, Bryn Johnson, Brynn Larson, Emily Lampe and Kelsey Meyer. This senior nucleus has made two appearances in the 1A State Tournament, finishing 5th in 2003 and Runner-Up in 2005. The seniors and their parents were honored prior to the game.

Coed Teams are Forming for a Quasqui Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament!

When: **Sunday, July 22nd**

Where: **Ball Complex, Laurens**

Cost: **\$5 per player**

Why: **It'll Be Fun!**

Umpires are needed - anyone interested in umpiring, please contact Karla Mohr at 841-4568.

For further details and/or questions, please contact Karla Mohr at 841-4568 or Pat Duran at 841-4548.



2007 Class 1A District & Regional Softball - Region 5

July 14, July 16, July 17, July 20, July 23

**Regional Champion Advances to the STATE TOURNAMENT
July 31-August 4, Fort Dodge, Rogers Sports Complex**

Clay Central-Everyly

District Semifinal - Saturday, July 14,
7:00 p.m. @ Lake Park

Harris-Lake Park

District Final - Monday, July 16
7:00 p.m. @ Terrill

Armstrong-Ringsted

District Semifinal - Saturday, July 14,
7:00 p.m. @ Terrill

Graettinger-Terrill

North Sentral Kossuth

District Semifinal - Saturday, July 14,
7:00 p.m. @ Algona Garrigan

Bishop Garrigan

District Final - Monday, July 16
7:00 p.m. @ Laurens

West Bend-Mallard

District Semifinal - Saturday, July 14,
7:00 p.m. @ Laurens

Laurens-Marathon

Regional Semifinal
Friday, July 20, 7:00 p.m.
@ Laurens

CWL

District Semifinal - Saturday, July 14,
7:00 p.m. @ Sheffield

SCMT

District Final - Monday, July 16
7:00 p.m. @ Britt

Twin River Valley

District Semifinal - Saturday, July 14,
7:00 p.m. @ Britt

West Hancock

Regional Final
Monday, July 23, 6:00 p.m.
@ Fort Dodge (Rogers Park)

Southeast Webster-Grand

District Quarterfinal - Saturday, July 14,
6:00 p.m. @ Latimer

Rockwell City-Lytton

District Final - Monday, July 16
7:00 p.m. @ Latimer

Northeast Hamilton

District Semifinal - Saturday, July 14,
7:30 p.m. @ Latimer

CAI

Regional Semifinal
Friday, July 20, 7:00 p.m.
@ Britt

District Admission: Adult: \$4; Student: \$4 • Regional Admission: Adult: \$5; Student: \$5

Top-Notch Baseball in Laurens

Monday evening, July 2nd, fans were treated to a tremendous baseball game when the L-M Chargers faced the Twin Lakes Conference 2007 champions, Wall Lake View Auburn. As many times this season, Charger errors were very costly.

It was a game seldom seen played as well by high school boys. There were only fifty-one batters for the entire game. WLVA had twenty-six batters and L-M had twenty-five. Wow! What a duel!

Gary Brechler, the sophomore Charger pitcher, had eleven strikeouts for the game. WLVA pitcher Steven Aschinger also had eleven Ks. After four innings, both teams had only thirteen batters each. In the fifth inning, Charger errors allowed the only run of the game to be scored.

L-M had men on base in the bottom of the seventh inning but could not score as the game ended with a strikeout. The Chargers had only two hits

for the game but pitcher Gary Brechler allowed only one hit, yet lost the game. Ouch!!

Preceding the game, three Charger seniors, David Brechler, Mitch Erickson



and Mason Reed (all pictured above), were presented with blue and gold wood bats engraved with their name, number and school name by head coach Matt Winter. He thanked them for their years of representing Laurens-Marathon baseball well.

Okoboji Tops Chargers 8-5

In a rain delayed baseball game, the Chargers of Laurens-Marathon were defeated by the Okoboji Pioneers at the Milford High School diamond on Thursday evening, July 5th. The game had barely started when a momentary deluge hit the field. The game was called for twenty minutes or so. When the rain came, the Chargers had men on base in the first inning but scored only one run. Mason Reed lead off the start of the game with a single and scored off an error hit to left field by Ryan Stumbo. However, the Pioneers scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning. Okoboji lead 5-2 at the end of three innings as Ryan Stumbo scored in the third for the Chargers.

In the fourth inning Gary Brechler hit an impressive homerun over the right field fence with Mason Reed on base to drive in two more runs. David Brechler belted a double in the fifth inning. Keton Joynt slapped one to the pitcher who errored on the throw to first base to allow David to score the only other run for the Chargers.

The Pioneers scored three more runs in the sixth inning to make the final score Pioneers - 8 and the Chargers - 5. Sophomore Adam Woodin pitched the first four innings for the Chargers, facing twenty-one batters and suffered the loss. Mason Reed came in relief in the fifth inning and faced the final ten batters.

Girls Gold Team T-Ball

Front Row: Alicia Carter, Mackenzie Brown,
2nd Row: Kylea Fehr, Brittany Linke, Olivia Ahlers, Mackenzie Fansega, Brooke Bouska, Allison Graff, Tiffany Linke, Sydney Harrold
Coaches Angie Graff, and Angie Brazel



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Chargers Clap the Thunder 9-5!

Tuesday, July 10th, 2007	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	R H E
Laurens-Marathon Chargers	0 0 1 0 6 0 2	9 9 3
TRV	1 0 4 0 0 0 0	5 7 4

Batting	AB	R	H	HR	BB	SO	RBI	Pitching	IP	R	ER	H	HR	BB	SO
Mason Reed - CF	4	1	2	0	0	0	1	Adam Woodin- W 7-2	7.0	5	4	7	0	4	2
Mitch Erickson -3B	5	1	2	0	0	0	0								
Andrew Hansen-C	4	1	2	0	0	0	1								
Gary Brechler-SS	3	1	0	0	1	0	0								
Adam Woodin-P	3	2	0	0	1	2	1								
Ryan Stumbo-DH	3	1	0	0	0	0	0								
Ryan Lovin-1B	4	0	1	0	0	0	2								
Jake Frye-PR	0	1	0	0	0	0	0								
David Brechler-2B	4	0	2	0	0	0	0								
Travis Leuer-LF	4	1	0	0	0	1	0								
TOTALS	34	9	9	0	2	3	5								

After a slow start, the Chargers recovered with a big 5th inning to push them past Twin River Valley in their district opener at Algona Garrigan High School.

TRV pulled ahead in the bottom of the 3rd when walks and errors keyed their 5-run inning. The Chargers kept their cool and got their big inning in the top of the 5th, when they pounded out 5 hits and were helped by a couple of TRV errors. From there the Chargers never looked back as they added on 2 in the top of the 7th to give them the lead at 9-5. Charger seniors had a big day with David Brechler, Mitch Erickson and Mason Reed pounding out 6 hits combined with two by each player. Adam Woodin picked up the complete game win to move to 7-2 on the year. After a rough 3rd inning, he completely shut down the Thunder.

Spectatin' Softball

Submitted by Jayne Woodin

Some of the baseball team took advantage of the night off from district play to support the Charger softball team in their 12-2 victory over Newell-Fonda last Wednesday. Positioned behind the centerfield fence are left to right, Adam Woodin, Tyler Smith, Jake Frye, Caleb Jamison, Zach Lovin, Lindsey Siepker, Ryan Stumbo, and John Gustafson. Ahh... The sights and sounds of summer!



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\$125.00 Winner!

Brad Olsen is the 4th lucky winner of the \$125.00 Friday drawing at Iowa Trust & Savings Bank. Pictured is Cathy Pohlman presenting Brad with \$125.00 in FRIDAY CASH! The last \$125.00 Friday drawing will be held on July 20th. Iowa Trust has enjoyed being a part of the Laurens 125 celebration and look forward to many successful years in Laurens.

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welcomes our French Delegates and visitors to Laurens.
Also a big "thank you" to the citizens of Laurens for
making this celebration a big success!

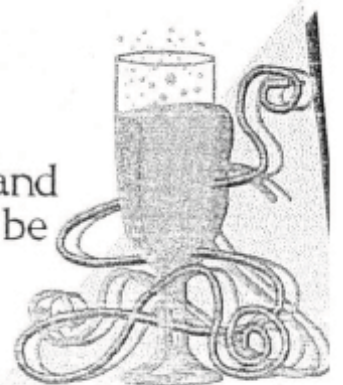
We also welcome the Iowa Wineries:

- ~ Sugar Grove
- ~ Prairie Moon
- ~ Park Farm
- ~ Sugar Clay
- ~ Spotted Horse
- ~ Kaiser Home
- ~ Little Swan Lake
- ~ Madison County
- ~ Penoach
- ~ Heartland Harvest
- ~ Southern Hills

Find out what else
is happening in
Laurens at
www.laurens-ia.com

Purchase your "Laurens, Iowa" wine glass at Quasqui
Headquarters to participate in the Laurens Iowa Wine Festival and
Market on Saturday, July 21 on Walnut Street. A wine cart will be
available to take you to your car with your purchases!

As we celebrate our town's birthday; please remember to do it responsibly.



Classifieds

ATTENTION: Beginning June 5 Stoner's Prime Produce and Luetta's Baked Goods will be at Highway 10 Hardware on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.



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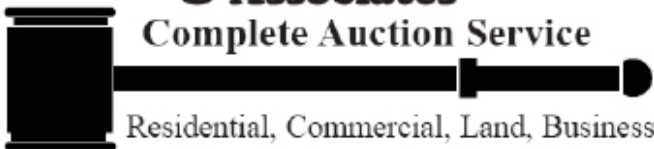
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